

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9792

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PFOR GV PU

SUBJECT : TOURE'S CURRENT POSITION REGARDING INDEPENDENCE
NEGOTIATIONS FOR PORTUGUESE COLONIES

1. ON MAY 19 PRESIDENT TOURE SPOKE ON GUINEAN RADIO TO SET
OUT GOG POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE OF PORTU-
GUESE COLONIES. MAIN POINTS WERE:

A. UN OR OAU SHOULD HOST PAIGC/PORTUGUESE NEGOTIATIONS,
NOT "COUNTRY WHICH HAS NOT RECOGNIZED INDEPENDENCE OF
GUINEA BISSAU AND OPENLY SUPPORTS ... ANPARHEID" (BRITAIN).

B. OHPY POINT TO NEGOTIATE IS PULL-OUT OF PORTUGUESE,
STATUS OF ANY PORTUGUESE WHO STAY IN BISSAU. INDEPENDENCE
MEANS RECOGNITION OF PAIGC GOVERNMENT BY PORTUGUESE.

C. ALL AFRICAN STATES AND OAU SHOULD "ADOPT AN ENERGETIC
POSITION" WITH GOAL OF RECOGNIZING INDEPENDENCE OF ALL
REMAINING PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

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2. TOURE ALSO OFFERED AN ANALYSIS OF THE HISTORY OF PORTU-

GUESE COLONIALISM, EMPHASIZING THAT THE GREATEST STEP TOWARD DECOLONIAZATION WAS THE "DEFEAT" OF THE PORTUGUESE IN CONAKRY AND IN NORTHERN GUINEA WHEN THEY ATTACKED IN NOVEMBER 1970 TO ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE THE PAIGC AND ITS PRINCIPAL SUPPORTER, GUINEA.

3. COMMENT: THE FAST-BREAKING EVENTS IN LISBON AND DAKAR REGARDING INDEPENDENCE FOR GUINEA BISSAU ARE CLEARLY A GREAT EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE TOURE REGIME. NOT ONLY IS IT NOW IMPOSSIBLE TO RALLY THE GUINEAN PEOPLE AGAINST THE THREAT OF PORTUGUESE MILITARY ATTACKS ON GUINEA. MORE EMBARRASSING IS THE HIGHLY VISIBLE ROLE OF "THE SUPER-PUPPET OF IMPERIALISM", SENGHOR, IN ACTUALLY HELPING TO LEGITIMIZE THE INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA BISSAU. TOURE'S SUGGESTION REGARDING RECOGNITION OF INDEPENDENCE OF OTHER PORTUGUESE COLONIES, WHICH SEEMS IMPRACTICAL AND UNLIKELY TO BE ACTED UPON BY MOST AFRICAN STATES, IS AN ATTEMPT TO STAKE OUT ANOTHER POLITICAL POSITION AHEAD OF THE REST OF AFRICA, EVEN IF THE REALITIES OF GUINEA'S LIMITED CAPABILITIES FOR ACTION DICTATE THAT TOURE WILL HAVE NO MAJOR ROLE IN THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS.

4. TOURE'S SEPARATE REFERENCES TO THE PEOPLES OF BISSAU AND THOSE OF CAPE VERDE IN THIS SPEECH SUGGESTS THAT HE MAY EXPECT THE PAIGC TO AGREE TO SEPARATE THE QUESTIONS OF INDEPENDENCE FOR THE MAINLAND AND FOR THE OFFSHORE ISLANDS.

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